



**JOINT MEETING MINUTES  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD and ARTS TASK FORCE  
FEBRUARY 13, 2018 6:00 P.M.  
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL LIBRARY, ASSEMBLY ROOM  
775 N. GREENFIELD ROAD, GILBERT, AZ 85234**

**PARKS BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Les Presmyk, Chair  
Robert Ferron, Vice Chair  
Barbara Guy  
Paul Marchant  
Mickie Niland (By phone)  
Matthew Roberts  
Lan Shafer

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mark Dobay  
Christopher Wharton

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Rod Buchanan, Parks and Recreation Director  
Robert Carmona, Parks Deputy Director  
John Kennedy, Parks and Recreation Manager  
Rocky Brown, Parks and Recreation Business Manager  
Denise Merdon, Special Events  
Troy Reed, Southeast Regional Library  
Danette Barton, Perry Library  
Ryan Blair, Engineering

**ARTS TASK FORCE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Evgeniya Barabasz-Lynn  
David Gotlieb  
Sandra Reynolds  
Cherie Scott

**TASK FORCE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Jean Smith

**COUNCIL LIAISON PRESENT:**

Eddie Cook, Councilmember

**DESIGN CONSULTANTS:**

Sean Wozny, Kimley-Horn  
Kevin Kimm, Kimley-Horn

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD:** Vice Chair Ferron called the meeting to order at 6:10 P.M. Denise Merdon called the roll and determined that a quorum was present.
- 2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF THE ARTS TASK FORCE:** John Kennedy called the Arts Task Force meeting to order at 6:11 P.M. The roll was called and all members were present, except Jean Smith.
- 3. COMMUNICATION FROM CITIZENS PRESENT:** Members of the public may comment on matters within the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Board, but not on the agenda. The Board's response is limited to responding to criticism, asking staff to review a matter commented upon, or asking that a matter be put on a future agenda. There were no communications from citizens at this time.
- 4. SAFETY MINUTE:** Paul Marchant provided a Safety Minute on texting while driving. Paul found that our kids learn by watching their parents and their behaviors, even while driving. He encouraged everyone to set a good example and teach kids not to text and drive. He travels a lot and is not allowed to talk or text while driving as part of his job. Think about what habits you are teaching your kids.

Robert Ferron has a 16-year-old daughter who will not let him text at a red light. Our kids can help to remind us to keep good habits while driving. Les Presmyk noted that texting or talking while driving is equivalent of a DUI in terms of your attention to the road.

The volunteer for next month's Safety Minute will be Barbara Guy.

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

### **5. FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ACTIVITY REPORT.**

**MOTION:** Paul Marchant moved to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Robert Ferron. Motion passed unanimously.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

### **6. MCLD LIBRARY REPORT:** Troy Reed, Southeast Regional Library Manager, and Danette Barton, Perry Library Manager, provided handouts on both Libraries with 2017 highlights and current program calendars.

#### **Perry Library Highlights for 2017**

Over 200,000 Customers served  
Over 500,000 Items circulated  
Over 200 Volunteers donated over 1,700 hours  
2 Tours and 31 Outreach visits  
569 Programs offered with over 15,000 attendees

Perry Library Summer Reading Program – Served over 1,700 kids, teens, and adults with special challenges, programs, and community experiences. This year's theme was "Build a Better World". Teen volunteers assist with registration, programs, and logging minutes. Community Experiences included Gilbert pools, Water Tower, Bergies' Coffee, Freestone Recreation, and the Riparian Preserve. Programs included Baby Art Adventures, Build-It, Reptile Adventure, Adult Yoga and Taiko Drumming.

#### **Perry Library Programming Highlights:**

Kids Programs: Themed Storytime with over 70 participants per session, STEAM Clubs, Patriot Day Letters to Soldiers, Kitchen Creations, Build-It, Art, and Paws to Read.

Teen Programs: Minute to Win It (Cupcake Wars); Community Jam, Song Writing and Recording Club, Zombie Ball, and outreach classes with Perry High School.

Adult Programs: Classic and Foreign Film Series, Common Threads, Stitch and Friends, Creative Writing, Socrates Café, AARP Free Tax Help, Digital Download help, and Art programs.

Family Programs: Higley District Battle of the Books (5th-6th graders), Gilbert Global Village outreach, Halloween Spooktacular, and Caroling in the Library in conjunction with Perry High School Culinary.

#### **Southeast Regional Library Highlights for 2017**

Over 600,000 Customers served  
Over 2.1 million items circulated  
779 Volunteers donated over 6,000 hours  
5 Tours and 10 Outreach visits  
740 Programs offered with over 18,000 attendees

SERL Summer Reading Program – Served over 5,800 kids, teens, and adults with special challenges, programs, and community experiences. This year's theme was "Build a Better World". Over 2,000 participated in Community Experiences with Parks and Recreation and other community organizations. Programs included Amazing Desert Creatures, and Built-It challenges.

Thinking Money: This past summer, SERL was one of 50 libraries in the country to host a traveling exhibition called Thinking Money which taught kids, tweens, and their caregivers about financial literacy through interactive games and programs.

SERL Programming Highlights:

Kids Programs: Themed Storytime, Tinker Time, Build and Play, Creative Space, Lego Club, Mythology Explorers, STEAM Self-Guided Program, Paws to Read, and Slime Club.

Teen Programs: Anime Film Club; Writing Workshops, Photography Workshops, Improv Workshops.

Adult Programs: Thursday Night Film Discussion, Genealogy, Book-It Book Walk at the Riparian Preserve; AARP Free Tax Help, One on One Digital Help, Drum Circle, and Financial Education.

Family Programs: Gilbert Global Village, LibraryCon (over 900 attended), Build-It Challenges; Halloween Cake Challenge; and Dogs with Jobs Series.

Ms. Reed, Ms. Barton, and the Library staff were thanked for their efforts in creating all of these activities for families and the community.

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

- 7. OCOTILLO BRIDGE PROJECT:** Introductions were made by the Arts Task Force members, Parks Board members, Town Staff, and the Kimley-Horn design team. Rod Buchanan introduced the Ocotillo Bridge Project. The Town Council approved the Arts Task Force to be activated and to collaborate with a subcommittee of the Parks Board to develop aesthetic ideas for the design of this project.

Councilmember Cook reviewed that the vision is to have the Ocotillo Bridge be more than just functional, but to have an artistic architectural component as well. The Bridge will serve to connect both sides of the Regional Park as well as provide additional access for the Fire Department. There are famous bridges worldwide that serve as attractions. He would like to see something creative and exciting for this Bridge that will draw people to the area. This project will provide the opportunity to engage the community, architects, the local school districts, and others to help shape the vision for the Bridge. The Arts Task Force and a subcommittee of the Parks Board will work together to help guide this endeavor.

Sean Wozny, Kimley Horn, was part of the team that originally worked on the Master Plan for the Regional Park. He reviewed the site location at the northeast corner of Queen Creek and Higley Roads. The Park contains a very large basin that provides excess storm water capacity for the East Maricopa Floodway Channel, which runs adjacent to the site. The Town owns the high and dry parcel, while Flood Control owns the secondary basin. Access into the basin will need to be maintained for Flood Control. Certain types of amenities need to be in the basin area, and others in the high and dry area.

The updated Master Plan for the Regional Park was reviewed, with the Bridge playing a major role in terms of multi-modal connectivity. A multi-use trail system around the Park perimeter can sustain a 10K race without interruption or crossing major streets. The East Maricopa Floodway Channel is part of the 26-mile Marathon Trail and the Town has completed a Trails Master Plan. This Bridge can provide a connection along that regional network of trails. A booklet was provided on design criteria for the Bridge to understand how aesthetic treatments or artistic elements can be incorporated into the Park. This booklet will be used in the outreach efforts as well.

Kevin Kimm, Kimley-Horn, reviewed three Concepts for the basic bridge structure. The Bridge will need to span the Regional Park as well as the East Maricopa Floodway and Queen Creek Wash, and will provide multi-modal transportation for vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles. The portions of the Bridge over the Floodway and Wash areas will be of a typical type and layout. The design ideas and artistic elements will focus on the portion of the Bridge that is over the Regional Park. The different types of structures and supports were reviewed, as well as span lengths and depths that can be accommodated. The arches, columns, and pedestrian barriers offer opportunities for aesthetic treatments, while the Park area beneath the Bridge offers opportunities for shaded amenities, such as a skate park. The span length is 120 feet and the minimum vertical clearance for Flood Control maintenance is 13.5 feet. The Bridge will be approximately 75 feet wide. Concept 2 has a portion underneath the Bridge filled in, which could potentially reduce construction costs. Concept 3 features pre-cast arches, which offer options for a variety of design elements.

The timeline and work plan were reviewed. The Staff and Consultants will meet with Gilbert Digital to develop an outreach plan. The outreach process will gather input over a 2-month period. Then the team will come back to the Parks Board with an outreach summary for Board feedback. Alternatives will then be developed and refined.

Chair Presmyk asked the Board and Arts Task Force to think of existing areas that have incorporated artistic elements, such as the Greenfield bridge under the railroad tracks with a train design in the concrete, the overpasses along the 202 with an agricultural theme, or the lizards along the 101 in Scottsdale. There are interesting pedestrian walkways and bridges at Piastewa Parkway, Mill Avenue, and Tempe Town Lake.

Rod Buchanan noted that the lake, amphitheater, and lawn areas can accommodate 10,000 people for special events, overlooking the Bridge and the San Tan Mountains as a backdrop. That is the vision that needs your input.

### **Board Questions:**

There was a question as to the difference in cost with the three concepts. Kevin Kimm explained that Concept 1 will be the more expensive option as there is a longer length of bridge. Concept 3 will be the least expensive option as pre-cast arches are quick to build and cost effective, although it will limit what can be done underneath.

Will park bonding be needed to pay for this bridge or is there already funding designated for the bridge? Councilmember Cook stated the basic bridge is accounted for as a Capital Improvement Project (CIP), although anything beyond that would need to be funded privately or through naming rights.

Is there a set budget for the basic bridge, and if so, can any savings be applied to artistic design elements? Ryan Blair stated there is no budget for the bridge at this time. It will not get funded until it goes to Council for approval. It is now in the CIP for an estimated \$60 million. He believes that will cover more than the basic bridge, and there may be the opportunity for some aesthetic elements with that money.

How can the bridge be split or reduced in size in order to reduce costs, and how much space is needed underneath the bridge for amenities? Chair Presmyk stated the cost versus reward will be significant. He asked the Board to set aside any questions on costs for now, and to focus on the creative aspect for the design features of the bridge. Regardless of which concept is chosen, we will have to come up with the funds to build the design elements.

Ryan Blair advised that Kimley-Horn is not under contract to design the Bridge. Their mission is to provide an assessment and to gather information and ideas through this group and through the public outreach process.

Cherie Scott noted in Seattle's light rail project, the engineering team included four artists who were integrally involved in the design process. Ryan stated ADOT and different organizations have been contacted to try to find artists for free. The feedback was that we will not get quality artists unless we pay for them. We are looking at some ASU programs, although we may need to pay for that service. We are exploring other options.

Sean Wozny noted this process is similar to the Regional Park Master Plan, where public workshops were held to gather ideas for the overall vision. After summarizing all of the ideas, a plan will be developed for the Town to decide how best to move forward. At that point, a call for design could include artists.

In Austin, bats emerge from under the Congress Avenue Bridge. This Bridge will not be tall enough or far enough from the activities to provide a separation between the bats and the people.

Chair Presmyk stated at this point we are brainstorming initial ideas for the end result as far as the design elements as well as the uses under the bridge. This group has been empaneled to participate in the outreach process, to listen to residents, and help to guide these conversations.

### **Brainstorming Ideas:**

- Arches can serve as interactive tunnels
- Artwork in the tunnels can feature local artists and culture (Gilbert talent)
- Incorporate artwork into the skate park
- Turn artwork into activities
- Have interaction with the Bridge to make it a destination

- Local school districts can contribute art to be incorporated in the design
- Involve ASU students for a class project
- Elegant, visually attractive lighting as in the Tempe Lake bridge
- Different lighting themes with music for public statements and Holidays
- Lighting can provide different looks for night and day
- Instead of arches, incorporate triangles and diagonal pillars to mimic the outline of the mountains
- What is over the top of the Bridge should tie in with the design of the structure, whether it be arches or triangles, so that each layer builds upon each other
- Consistency with themes around Town, make it Gilbert
- Maximize space under the bridge from a shade and recreation standpoint
- Wow factor, Unique features
- Incorporate natural elements into the bridge (hummingbirds, butterflies, bats)
- Incorporate plants to provide a cooling effect as well as art
- Incorporate lighting into the landscaping to provide a different nighttime view
- Build vertically to see the Bridge from a distance (Empire State Building)
- An iconic vision like Austin's Pennybacker Bridge with a large steel arch over a recreational lake

**Next Steps:** The community outreach process will begin the end of March, 2018. Councilmember Cook requested additional examples of the bridge with triangles or other ideas to stir up the imagination. Sean Wozny stated they could provide photos of other iconic bridges, but did not want to lead people down a certain path. It was suggested to include the Trilogy community in the outreach process.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

**8. MINUTES—CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 9, 2018:** A Motion was made by Barbara Guy, and seconded by Robert Ferron, to approve the Minutes of the regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting of January 9, 2018. The Motion passed unanimously.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

**9. REPORT FROM CHAIR:** Les Presmyk reported on the recent Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. This year was the 55th straight year that Les has attended this show and he has been on the show committee for 32 years. It is his second love. The Tucson show is the world's largest gathering of gems, minerals, and fossils.

**10. REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS:** Robert Ferron attended the Grand Opening of the Park Tavern, adjacent to AZ Ice. It is a great facility and the opening was well-attended.

**11. REPORT FROM FOUNDATION LIAISON:** Barbara Guy, Liaison to the Foundation, reported that this weekend, February 16-18, 2018, 10–5, the Gilbert Fine Art and Wine Festival will be held at the Civic Center Grounds. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Parks and Recreation Foundation.

The Foundation presented Town Council with a check for \$22,000 to support the GAP program. The Foundation is looking at the Agents of Discovery mobile app for the Riparian Preserve. Barbara used the app at Veteran's Oasis Park and it was quite fun.

**12. REPORT FROM COUNCIL LIAISON:** Councilmember Cook thanked the Arts Task Force for participating in this Bridge project. There is a possibility that Trader Joe's may be coming to Gilbert. Councilmember Cook has been working with the Police Department, courts, and prosecution team on a program called Endeavor—Ending Domestic Violence Responsibly. The General Plan update and Downtown Redevelopment Master Plan are in the works and there will be future meetings and opportunities to get involved.

**13. REPORT FROM STAFF LIAISONS:** John Kennedy reported that Sandra Reynolds is serving as a double agent on the Arts Task Force as well as the representative for Gilbert Archery, which will be ready to open in the next week or so. In the Board packet, Linda Ayres provided a copy of the Parks and Recreation Council report. Recreation Division revenues are up 5%, a \$70,000 increase over last year, and expenses are even with last year.

Rocky Brown reported that the Trout Unlimited Use Agreement was approved by Council. They will hold the first Special Needs Fishing event in March.

Robert Carmona reported that the irrigation controllers and shade structures will go before Council in March. New interactive signs will be coming later this year at the Riparian Preserve.

Rod Buchanan announced that the first phase of the Regional Park will be showcased. There will be a Focus Group on February 27, 2018 at the Library for parents and family members of those with disabilities on inclusivity aspects of the Park. The following week, there will be a meeting with parents or grandparents of young children to gather input on the play elements of the Park.

In March, there will be a presentation to the Parks Board with those focus group results and the 30% design before going to Council. The Arts Task Force will be included in the next Board meeting. There is a new development on Park funding. The Council will consider a loan to the Park fund, to be paid back by future land sales. That funding would allow us to design both sections of the Park at the same time. The land is being positioned and zoned for sale in August, which could bring in \$40 million for the Park. We will be asking Council for \$1.3 million to complete the design for the high and dry area, as well as \$6 million to add to existing funding to deliver more fields at Rittenhouse. If the land sale is successful, we will be able to build most of the Park by the end of the sunset period for the SDF Funds (System Development Fees).

**14. UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Outdoor Expo – February 24, 9–2 at the Riparian Preserve. Volunteers are needed.
- Kidtopia – March 10, 10-5 at the Civic Center grounds, partnering with Entercom, 94.5 KOOL FM, LIVE 101.5, and KMLE Country 107.9. 10,000 tickets are expected to be sold.

**CONCLUSION:**

**15. MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Barbara Guy moved to adjourn both the Parks and Recreation Board meeting and the Arts Task Force meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

**ATTEST:**

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Les Presmyk, Chair

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Denise Merdon, Staff Liaison